

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a persistent storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving as input an entity definition of a persistent storage structure, wherein the entity definition comprises a declaration of an object, one or more properties of the object, and a data type for each property;

parsing the entity definition to determine logical structures and properties for the declared entities; object;

automatically generating the persistent storage structure in a persistent storage medium based on the determined logical structures and properties of the declared entities; object;

and automatically generating an interface for the persistent storage structure, wherein the interface comprises entity object classes that are automatically generated to enable access to entity instances object instance data in the persistent storage structure; and

automatically generating an index to object instance data if it is determined that a frequency of accessing the object instance data exceeds a predefined threshold.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent storage structure comprises a database table.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent storage structure comprises a file directory.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent storage medium comprises a hard disk, a readable/writeable CD or a floppy disk.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in a database system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the database system is a relational database.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically generating an interface for accessing the persistent storage medium comprises automatically creating methods for one of storing, retrieving, searching, and removing ~~entity~~ object instance data in the persistent storage medium.

9. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically adapting the persistent storage structure or the access interface for a new entity definition.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically optimizing the persistent storage system to improve search efficiency or storage scalability.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically creating a cache memory for storing an ~~entity~~ object instance data that is accessed from the persistent storage medium based on the index.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving an ~~entity~~ object instance declaration; and  
automatically populating the persistent storage structure with ~~entity~~ object instance data.

15. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for generating a persistent storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving as input an entity definition of a persistence storage structure, wherein the entity definition comprises a declaration of an object, one or more properties of the object, and a data type for each property;

parsing the entity definition to determine logical structures and properties for the declared ~~entities~~; object;

automatically generating the persistent storage structure in a persistent storage medium based on the determined logical structures and properties of the declared ~~entities~~; object;

and automatically generating an interface for the persistent storage structure, wherein the interface comprises ~~entity~~ object classes that are automatically generated to enable access to ~~entity instances~~ object instance data in the persistent storage structure; and

automatically generating an index to object instance data if it is determined that a frequency of accessing the object instance data exceeds a predefined threshold.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein the persistent storage structure comprises a database table.

18. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein the persistent storage structure comprises a file directory.

19. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein the instructions for automatically generating an interface for accessing the persistent storage medium comprise instructions for automatically creating methods for one of storing, retrieving, searching, and removing ~~entity~~ object instance data in the persistent storage medium.

20. - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, further comprising instructions for automatically adapting the persistent storage structure or the access interface for a new entity definition.

23. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, further comprising instructions for automatically optimizing the persistent storage system to improve search efficiency or storage scalability.

24. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 15, further comprising instructions for automatically creating a cache memory for storing ~~an entity~~ object instance data that is accessed from the persistent storage medium based on the index.

25. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 15, further comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving an entity object instance declaration; and  
automatically populating the persistent storage structure with entity object  
instance data.

26. (Currently Amended) A persistent storage system, comprising:  
an interface for receiving an entity definition of a persistent storage structure, the  
entity definition comprising a declaration of an object, one or more properties of the  
object, and a data type for each property, and for processing the entity definition to  
determine logical structures and properties for the declared entities object; and  
a utility module for automatically configuring an autonomous persistent storage  
system in accordance with the processed entity definition, wherein the autonomous  
persistent storage system is automatically configured to comprise:  
a module for automatically generating the persistent storage structure in a  
persistent storage medium based on the determined logical structures and  
properties of the declared entities object; and  
an access interface comprising entity object classes that are automatically  
generated to provide access methods that enable access to entity instances  
object instance data in the persistent storage structure; and  
an index creation module for automatically generating an index to object  
instance data based on access history.

27. (Original) A database system comprising the persistent storage system of  
claim 26.

28. (Original) An enterprise application comprising the persistent storage system of claim 26.

29. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the persistent storage structure comprises a database table.

30. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the persistent storage structure comprises a file directory.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the access methods comprise methods for one of storing, retrieving, searching, and removing entity object instance data in the persistent storage medium.

32. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the autonomous persistent storage system is an electronic catalog system.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the autonomous persistent storage system further comprises a cache memory module for automatically storing an entity object instance data that is accessed from the persistent storage medium based on the index.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the autonomous persistent storage system further comprises means for automatically populating a persistent storage structure with ~~entity~~ object instance data that is input to the system.

36. (Original) An e-service that implements the system of claim 26 for providing a data management service based on a fee agreement or service level agreement.

37. (Canceled)

38. (New) A method for managing an object and its persistent storage image, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving as input an entity definition, wherein the entity definition comprises a declaration of the object, one or more properties of the object, and a data type for each property;

parsing the entity definition to determine logical structures and properties for the declared object;

automatically generating and maintaining a mapping between an instance of the object and its persistent storage image based on the entity definition; and

automatically measuring a frequency of accessing the instance of the object and, if it is determined that the measured frequency is above a preset threshold, storing the instance of the object in a cache.



39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of automatically measuring a frequency of searching by values of a property of the object.